



The Echo Q&A Series continues on page 8!

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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

108 Washtenaw tenants rally for better conditions

"I just want them to fix the problem, and I don't want to ask three, four, five times for it."



Tenants at 108 Washtenaw and supporters rally against unfair, unsafe conditions in the apartment building.

Quanzelle Wyatt/The Eastern Echo

Quanzelle Wyatt
News Reporter

Saturday, Feb. 22, tenants at 108 Washtenaw held a rally to protest unfair treatment by management.

Tenants at the apartment building organized when one of their neighbors, Rachael, received an eviction notice from MTH Management to leave by April 1.

A press release shared by the tenants detailed grievances with the building's management and quality of the building.

"On January 21st, in response to an issue Rachael had brought to management's attention, Rachael received a text from the property manager stating, 'If you're unhappy with the service, it might be best for us to part ways. I will go ahead and place a 30-day notice for you to vacate,'" the release said.

The press release stated more issues from management, including inconsistent and confusing communication, persistent cockroach infestations, unexplained fires, and dysfunctional heating systems.

Before the rally on Friday, Rachael spoke about her experience. Rachael has lived at the property for four and a half years.

"In the last four years, management has changed, it started with Beal Properties to Red Shield Rentals owned by Ian Greenlee, back to Beal Properties, and then to MTH Management who is the current property manager based out of Lansing," Rachael said. "I have experienced just completely horrible treatment and organization. There's no organization, it's like they're hiring people with no experience doing this."

Rachael moved in during the pandemic and experienced similar issues to her neighbors such as building break-ins, loitering, and frequent ant and cockroach infestations.

"I didn't realize how bad it could be," Rachael said. "When I wake up every morning, [I] bleach my kitchen so that I can cook. I bleach my bathtub when I shower because there are dead ants everywhere."

The biggest issue is the heat. Tenants have dealt with temperature fluctuations, and Rachael didn't have hot water for three months last winter.

She also didn't have a thermostat

connected to her room to be able to control the heat, along with most tenants in the building.

"The heat is one of the biggest things that affect me," Rachael said.

There were also issues with the managing of keys.

"During their time with me there, [MTH] lost keys to my apartment," Rachael said. "They would just get around it by asking you, 'You need to be there to let maintenance in.'"

These issues became the catalyst for Rachael to start talking with other tenants about their issues and getting to know them further through the community garden she was managing for a time.

When Rachael had to stop managing the garden to help her family, the garden was bulldozed and her tools disappeared.

The garden was her final straw, so Rachael met with management in September of 2024.

"Our property manager and I had a angry, heated conversation in September about my garden, and about not having heat, and the roaches, our trash wasn't being picked up in the summer, so we would have our trash

sitting out for three weeks at a time. Our washing machines don't work, they're always broken," Rachael said. "I was upset, and rightfully so."

Rachael was told if she was unhappy, she could leave when her lease ended.

"I just want to have my home be safe, clean and secure," Rachael said. "I just want them to fix the problem, and I don't want to ask three, four, five times for it."

At the rally, many Ypsilanti renters showed up in support of 108 Washtenaw and Rachael.

For fear of retaliation from management at the 108 Washtenaw property, two tenants declined to be named but spoke about their experiences.

"When we first came here in Fall [2023], it was still managed by Beal. Our lease is still the same, but MTH has not really done any better than Beal. They've been very uncommunicative and very disorganized with dispatching maintenance work and responding to requests."

They're also friends with Rachael and have come out in support of their friend and neighbor.

"I don't think [Rachael] should be

penalized in this way just for trying to hold management accountable."

Another tenant said that, at first, the landlords were in contact well at the beginning, but communication quickly got worse.

"It's simply been frustrating, because it slowly faded into me not getting responses."

Dave, a longtime resident of the property, and the "dad" of the community in the building, walked through the building to show some of the issues.

"[Communication] has varied from next day, two days later, with a reply from the property manager letting them know that this is what's coming up and happening to you," Dave said.

Dave said that he and others in the protest hope that their latest efforts will improve the conditions for all the tenants at 108 Washtenaw and lead to better communication with their property managers.

MTH Property Management did not respond to The Echo's request for comment in time for the publication of this article.



*The Eastern Echo
Student Media Gala*

7 p.m.
Thursday, March 27, 2025
The Ypsilanti Freighthouse

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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CORRECTIONS

The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief by email: editor@easternecho.com

Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY MARCH 4	WEDNESDAY MARCH 5	THURSDAY MARCH 6	FRIDAY MARCH 7	SATURDAY MARCH 8	SUNDAY MARCH 9	MONDAY MARCH 10
WOMEN OF POWER UNITED STUDENT CENTER 2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. 	KINGS CASINO STUDENT CENTER 7 P.M. - 9 P.M. 	PRIDE PROM MCKENNY HALL BALLROOM 6:30 P.M. - 9 P.M. 	RIVERSIDE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION 76 N HURON ST. 5 P.M. - 7 P.M. 	"THE LIGHTNING THIEF" OPEN AUDITIONS SPONBERG THEATRE 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. 	INTRODUCTION TO ARCHERY 2980 WASHTENAW AVE. 7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. 	

Scoop's Forecast

52°  33° **Tuesday, March 4**

56°  -37° **Wednesday, March 5**

37°  27° **Thursday, March 6**

42°  27° **Friday, March 7**

39°  28° **Saturday, March 8**

40°  23° **Sunday, March 9**

43°  25° **Monday, March 10**



-  **Administration**
-  **Urgent Care**
-  **Dining**
-  **Bus Stop**
-  **Parking**
-  **Housing**
-  **Academic**
-  **Eastern Echo**



Beal take over Arbor One; residents hope for change

Korinn Perron
News Reporter

Residents at Arbor One apartment complex in Ypsilanti, Mich., have dealt with leaking buildings, roach-infested units and inconsistent communication from their property management.

Current and former residents reported frustration over the neglect from management, mentioning that phones often went unanswered and doors to the leasing offices were frequently locked during open hours.

In late 2024, apartment buildings around the complex began receiving lack of compliance notices.

After weeks of uncertainty and a closed session of Ypsilanti's City Council to discuss litigation with the complex, new management has taken over the property.

Stewart Beal and his company Beal Properties LLC, have returned to the role of property management at Arbor One.

Beal said drove down to the Arbor One office on Feb. 1 and asked what he could do to help. Within a few days, he was on board.

Beal's company formerly served as management for Arbor One in 2018. He admitted the property had similar issues and complaints from tenants and the owner lost control of the property.

Former Arbor One resident and senior at Eastern Michigan University,

K.R. took notice of issues with then-management right away.

"I remember getting there excited to see my new place," K.R. said. "There was no apartment to even tour, we just signed paperwork and left."

She noted it was a "difficult" move-in process, receiving no call-backs, information, or communication from management, a theme that would continue throughout most residents' lease.

Within her first two months, K.R. began to place bowls across the bathroom tile to catch water from burst pipes, then the heat and AC system broke, and then it was the kitchen sink and dishwasher. Maintenance requests about these issues remained unanswered for months, K.R. said.

In early 2024, the upper two floors of K.B.'s building caught fire, trickling down an extensive list of damages to the floors below. A substantial amount of smoke, water, and structural damage that resulted in DTE cutting off power to the building, leaving the residents of nearly 24 units with nowhere to go.

"I woke up to people yelling, 'Fire!' outside of my window," K.B. said. "People were outside screaming and banging on walls and windows to get people out."

Watching her building become swallowed by flames, K.B. and her roommate stood alongside their fellow residents, all displaced in the -20 F February winter. There was official

report of what caused the fire but K.B. recalled overhearing her neighbor whose unit caught on fire in distress earlier that night.

"I heard my neighbor crying upstairs," K.B. said. "There was talk of unresolved electrical issue complaints in her unit and she was crying."

After experiencing mold-covered walls and broken windows neglected by maintenance through the cold, winter months, another former tenant, R.B., said she was court-ordered to move out of her unit.

With insufficient time, R.B. found management had locked her out of her unit containing her belongings. Upon regaining access, R.B. returned to a "completely ransacked" apartment, which she said was absent of several of her valuable belongings. She added that management entering units without permission was not uncommon.

Upon arrival of her new court ordered unit, R.B. detailed the place as "filled with roaches, leaking water, bad electrical issues, and faulty heat and air systems, which eventually flooded."

The city of Ypsilanti and Washtenaw county are working in tandem to aid tenants in learning and utilizing their rights and to help come to a solution for residents at the Arbor One apartment and townhomes complex.

Since joining as property manager of Arbor One, Beal has already taken significant strides to prompt change at the property.

Upon reaching agreement with the ownership and ensuring their response to the project was on par with his plans, he was able to secure at least a million dollars to begin improving the property.

"It's a completely new team and management," Beal said. "[It's] stronger, more robust. We went from 6 team members to 24."

The team is currently working to improve the quality of living for the tenants, reportedly having already completed around 250 maintenance requests over the past two weeks and renewing 40 leases at the property.

They are currently working with the city of Ypsilanti to inspect each of the property's buildings to reinstate or renew code compliances, ensuring the quality for tenants. The process will focus on inspecting one building a week for the next ten weeks.

"We've been working away," Beal said. "There's a list of over 10,000 items long, ranging from simple tasks like replacing batteries in smoke detectors to more complicated issues, like replacing and rebuilding ceilings in units."

Beal is looking forward to turning over a new leaf for the complex.

"We're gonna encourage people to rent as soon as we get the certificate of occupancy from the city," Beal said. "Give us a shot. We want people to have a safe, comfortable living space."

What's the move? March 4-10

Echo Staff

Women of Power United - March 4

International Women's Day is March 8 and to get the celebration started, EMU's Women's Resource Center is hosting a "Women of Power United" event from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the Student Center.

Women leaders, activists and changemakers from diverse backgrounds will share their stories during the event, which is designed to honor achievements of women across the globe. The event will be held on the second floor of the student center. For more information, visit the website for the Women's Resource Center, or email program coordinator Kimberly Ferrell at kdixson@emich.edu.

The event is approved for learning beyond the classroom credit.

Kings Casino - March 5

Interested in a night of fun betting at the tables? Try casino night at the student center. Hosted by the Campus Life student activities team, Kings Casino is from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Student Center ballroom. This event is free, and students will be provided with play money to bet.

Riverside's 30th Anniversary Invitational Reception - March 7

Riverside Arts Center began its mission in 1995, working to cultivate arts and culture in Ypsilanti.

The invitational exhibition was curated by arts center operations manager Maggie Spencer and will be on display in the center's North Gallery. The opening reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025, at 76 North Huron St.

Admission is free for most gallery events, but the center encourages a \$5 donation from visitors.

Open auditions - March 8

Students from all majors are invited to audition for a role in "The Lightning Thief: A Percy Jackson Musical" scheduled for fall performances.

The auditions are from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 8, 2025, in Sponberg Theatre in the Judy Sturgis Hill Building.

Those wishing to audition should prepare two 16-bar selections from musical theatre and bring piano sheet music for the accompanist. For more information contact EMU theater Assistant Managing Director Pam Cardell at pcardell@emich.edu. Interested students can also check out the theater department's website pages for auditions.

Time to Paddy 5K, 10K and Lucky 13.1 - March 8

The St. Patrick-themed running event features races and other events for everyone in the family to participate -- including in-person and virtual race options, free photos, a biggest team contest, a kids dash, and of course lots of food.

Sponsored by Bodies Race Company, the race starts at 8 a.m. at Rolling Hills Water Park, on Stony Creek Road.

Runners who register as a team can access special pricing and a chance to win the Biggest Paddy team award. Teams can be created during registration. The honors will be awarded just before the 8 a.m. race time.

To register, and for more information, visit the race website.

Sap to Syrup at County Farm Park - March 8

The Sap to Syrup program is a hands-on workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. at the County Farm Park, 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor. Participants will learn to make maple syrup, including how to identify suitable trees and when to tap them. The program ends with a demonstration of boiling the sap down to syrup.

Pre-registration is required, at parksonline.washtenaw.org; register for activity No. 831009.

Introduction to Archery - March 9

Safety and basic shooting skills are the focus of this indoor introduction to archery class led by Kelsey Dehring at Washtenaw County's Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, 2960 Washtenaw Ave.

Space is limited to 12 people per class, and the classes are divided by age group. Ages 18 and older are invited to the 7 to 8:30 p.m. class Sunday, March 9, 2025. Ages 8 and older are invited to the 5:30 p.m. class. Register through the county's website activity pages, and select activity No. 821007.

All archery equipment is provided, and no prior archery experience is required. Those with questions can email the instructor at dehring@washtenaw.org.



EMU alerts campus to potential changes due to executive orders

Olivia Hendry
Managing Editor

On Jan. 21, Donald Trump was sworn in to be the 47th president of the United States. In the days since then, the futures of undocumented students, federally funded programs, and more have been brought into question.

Such questions have the possibility to affect the campus community. In an internal email sent to Eastern Michigan University employees on Jan. 29, University president James Smith and Provost Rhonda Longworth sent out further instructions regarding potential federal changes. They acknowledged that many might be feeling confused or anxious in this period of uncertainty. A similar email was sent to students on Feb. 19.

"Please know that we are here to support students, listen to your concerns, and provide information and resources to assist you in navigating these changes," said the email

addressed to students. "We remain committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where you can continue to thrive academically and personally."

Both emails linked to a new webpage under the University's "Legal Affairs" section of their website. This page, titled "Campus Guidance Regarding Recent Federal Directives", seeks to provide up to date information on the federal government's impact on EMU. This page currently has information on what to do if Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officers, or ICE, are present on campus, how to handle reduced NIH funding, and the previous freeze on federally funded programs, among other things.

The page's last update was on Feb. 19., the same day the email was sent to students. Any other information pertaining to federal directives, according to the emails, will be updated when additional information is gathered.

While they wait for more information, students are voicing their concerns as to how these federal directives could affect their classmates, and the campus community. Many of the federal directives have the possibility of personally affecting those around EMU, including undocumented students, researchers who use NIH funds for their projects, and more.

For some students, they just want other students to feel safe and comfortable when coming to campus. The impact of federal directives, like increased ICE presence, disrupts this feeling of safety.

"My true wish is that everyone feels safe in our country," said Westyn Winling, a fourth year Special Education major at Eastern. "[ICE agents] being able to come into places where people often feel like it's a safe place, and now it's turning into not a safe place, it hurts my heart."

Perri Pace, a freshman student who has interacted with undocumented

children in the past through her job, echoes this sentiment.

"I just think it's unjust, inhumane, and it's not fair. Especially if they are here to get an education, and they gotta sit and worry about possibly getting snatched up from their seat in the middle of class, or in their dorm room, etc."

For Winling, when one student doesn't feel safe at school, it affects the entire campus community.

"I overall just worry about the safety of students and being able to safely feel like they're getting a proper education," said Winling.

The safety of students, and the impact of federal directives on Eastern Michigan University, is an ongoing and complex question. To speak with someone directly about how you may be effected, please reach out to either the Dean of Students or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Anti-abortion posters displayed by EMU professor spark controversy

AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter

In Alice Jo Rainville's office inside of the Everett L. Marshall building, two posters are on display in the window facing the public sidewalk. One reads, "Face It, Abortion Kills A Person!!" accompanied by an image of a baby around 6 months in age. The second poster reads, "Stand Up For Religious Freedom" and includes a website of the same name.

Graduate student Ben Kelly saw these posters in late January. After seeing them, Kelly researched the legal and ethical side of EMU's poster policies.

"It's upsetting on a human level," Kelly said. Kelly said that he is an advocate for women's rights and abortion access for those in need.

While EMU's PolicyTech guidelines for bulletin boards and postings does not list any staff requirements, students have criteria for postings on bulletin boards. As listed in EMU's student handbook, "a Poster shall not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, creed, national origin, marital status, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation or disability."

Kelly said that this poster was discriminatory toward those who have had abortions, and decided to contact the University's Department of Health and Human Services for clarification. The Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Andrea Gosett Zakrajsek, responded to Kelly's email explaining, "as a public institution, EMU must abide by free speech policies."

Zakrajsek and Dean Fritz then contacted EMU's legal department to ensure they had interpreted the rights and policies correctly. Zakrajsek told Kelly, "At this time, EMU faculty/employees have the right to post

political content in their offices and in their office windows."

Unsatisfied with this response, Kelly approached Chief DEI Officer Dwight Hamilton, explaining that these posters were more than just a statement.

"[The posters] use violent rhetoric and spread misinformation. These things are not facts," said Kelly.

Kelly's concern reached to people who have had abortions as well as the students in Rainville's classes.

"This promotes unhealthy relationships between students and professors," Kelly said. "I wouldn't respect my professor or take them seriously if I knew they were displaying these posters, they have a discriminatory nature toward anyone who has had to experience this."

Hamilton heard Kelly's worries, and looked over the laws with the eyes of a formal civil rights attorney.

Hamilton said that based on his research, hate speech is still protected under freedom of speech. This instance cannot be interpreted as harassment, because it is not pointed at any one individual. Hamilton also said that challenging the posters could draw unnecessary attention to the university concerning the abortion issue.

Kelly then shared his experience with The Eastern Echo. He questioned whether the response would have been different if someone who had undergone an abortion had filed the complaint. Kelly also spoke about the university's reliance on a third-party organization to oversee its ethics department, and emphasized his ongoing commitment to advocating for student rights and non-discrimination on campus.

Alice Jo Rainville, a faculty member in the College of Health and Human Services, is the faculty advisor for Eastern Michigan University's chapter of Protect Life. Protect Life is an organization that supports the pro-life cause by advocating to restrict



Signs hanging in Alice Rainville's office window. Courtesy of Ben Kelly

access to abortion and defund Planned Parenthood.

"Motivated by my work with Protect Life Michigan, I am the faculty advisor for the EMU chapter, because I believe our tax dollars should not be used for killing innocent babies in the world," Rainville said.

Rainville said that the sudden interest in her window was surprising.

"I've had signs up for years, different ones periodically," Rainville said. "As far as I know, there's no policies."

Rainville displays these posters in her office window, and on her door inside. She posts information and business cards to inform students about the pregnancy health centers where she

works.

"That's my faculty office, meaning I can put up what I want no one can take away your right to express your viewpoint. In fact, a college campus is a great place to explore viewpoints and find your beliefs."

Rainville said that these pregnancy centers provide women and families with support including materials for babies, parenting classes, ultrasounds, and pregnancy testing for free. Rainville said that these clinics are not only for those considering abortion, they are judgement free.

"[These centers] help women with unwanted pregnancies, but they have received a lot of vandalism and

violence from people who don't agree with it," Rainville said. "We have been discriminated against for working there."

Though Kelly and Rainville have not met in person, Kelly said he would like to ask Rainville a question: "If a person who previously had an abortion saw this, what do you want them to think? What is your hope for them?"

When Rainville was asked this question, she said, "I would hope that they get the help that they deserve and that they need. All humans have rights. There are programs for women who have had abortions and men who haven't had a say in the abortions their girlfriends have."

'Meeting the Moment' explores executive orders' impact on LGBTQ+ individuals

Odelia Florusbosch
News Reporter

On Feb. 20, 2025, "Meeting the Moment: Civil Liberties and the LGBTQ+ Community" took place at Eastern Michigan University.

The event included a speech from guest speaker Jay Kaplan and an opportunity for audience members to ask questions. Kaplan is the staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's LGBTQ+ project. He has worked with the ACLU of Michigan's LGBTQ+ project since it was founded in 2001.

The event was the second part of the Meeting the Moment series hosted by EMU's Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, which aims to help community members understand how recent federal actions, such as executive orders, may impact them. The Feb. 20 event focused on executive orders that impact LGBTQ+ individuals.

Meeting the Moment is intended to foster a conversation about the current political climate, not act as a representation of EMU's view on recent actions or EMU policy.

Kaplan focused on Executive Orders 14148, 14168, 14183, 14187, 14190 and 14201 in his speech, explaining what each of those executive orders aims to do and how each might affect

people, particularly trans individuals.

Executive Order Explanations:

Executive Order 14148 has rescinded many previously existing executive orders, including Executive Order 13988, which prevented discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

Executive Order 14168 states that federally issued identification documents, such as passports, must reflect an individual's assigned sex at birth. It also prevents federal funding for prisons from being used for gender-affirming care and states that trans women must be housed in men's prisons.

Executive Order 14183 restricts trans individuals from enlisting and serving in the U.S. military.

Executive Order 14187 restricts federal funding from being used to provide gender-affirming care for people younger than 19.

Executive Order 14201 prevents trans women from playing on women's sports teams.

Executive Order 14190 restricts federal funding for schools that support their trans students' social transitions, which includes things such as using the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity.

Kaplan also explained that executive orders are policy directives, not laws.

"An executive order can't usurp

other laws that are already in place, including our state civil rights laws," said Kaplan.

Legal organizations such as the ACLU are filing lawsuits against some of the executive orders recently introduced by the Trump administration. In some cases, judges have issued Temporary Restraining Orders, which are limited periods in which a certain policy cannot be implemented.

Kaplan also talked about actions that people who are upset about recent executive orders can take.

"Let people know where you stand use your voice. Make it clear that you think this is wrong," said Kaplan. He gave examples such as posting to social media, calling or emailing your representatives and attending town hall meetings.

"This is not the world I believe in as long as I have any breath in my body I'm going to stand up against this kind of stuff," Kaplan said, when discussing the current political and social climate.

Kaplan ended his speech by asking people to take care of themselves and participate in activities that bring them happiness.

"I think some of the people behind all this would like you to feel that there's no sense of joy. We can't let that happen. Anything that fills your soul, keep on doing that," said Kaplan.

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Men's basketball shines on national stage, beating Central Michigan



Miles Corley/The Eastern Echo

Caleb Henderson
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan men's basketball team flourished under the spotlight in front of their largest home crowd of the season and on national television at the George Gervin GameAbove Center for the first time since 2018.

It knocked off in-state foe Central Michigan 84-73, to secure a significant victory and further bolster their Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament bid.

With Detroit Pistons scouts looking on, this game also served as senior night for the Eagles' seniors Da'Sean Nelson, Jalen Terry, and Jalin Billingsley all shining bright as the

three upperclassmen combined to score 60 of the team's 84 points.

Eastern Michigan head coach Stan Heath lauded the Ypsilanti faithful for coming out in droves for the final home game of the campaign.

"It was tremendous" for the community to come out and support us, it meant everything to us. And we could hear them," Heath said. "That extra boost really helped us, especially when they were trying to make those comebacks."

Unlike their previous outing earlier in the week against Bowling Green, when they trailed by 16 at halftime, the Eagles were the team up by 16 late in the opening half. They managed to protect their lead the rest of the way despite Central Michigan cutting their deficit to four points multiple times in

the final frame.

"Those guys came out on the floor, they were ready to go and they were the aggressor. You have to be the aggressor," Heath added in regards to his team's fast start.

The Eagles hit nine of their first 13 shots and made 50% of their attempts in the first half, key catalysts to the home team's early advantage that they would never relinquish.

The aforementioned dynamic duo of Nelson and Terry each added 25 points apiece; Nelson recorded a double-double with 10 rebounds while Terry shot 60% (6/10) from behind the arc, Christian Henry added 13 points of his own, and Jalin Billingsley contributed 10.

When asked about his star seniors and their key contributions, coach

Heath did not hold back praise.

"[Nelson and Terry] have been through a lot. We're glad they came here to Eastern Michigan for their last year, and they've made a huge difference in our program this year," he said.

The win moves Eastern Michigan back above .500 with a 15-14 record (8-8 MAC). They now hold a clear path to qualifying for the MAC Tournament, currently sitting sixth in the conference. Meanwhile, Central Michigan falls to 13-16 (6-10 MAC), remaining on the outside looking into the bracket.

The Eagles' penultimate campaign game, March 4 at 7 p.m., will be a critical road test against the Ohio Bobcats. Viewers can stream the game live on ESPN+.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Mar. 4-10

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Get ready for an action-packed week as Eastern Michigan athletics heads into the first week of March with a packed schedule of exciting competitions and high-stakes matchups! Whether you're cheering from the stands in Ypsilanti or following along from home, here's your breakdown of the must-see events this week:

Men's Basketball at Ohio

On March 4 at 7 p.m., the men's basketball team travels to Athens, Ohio, for a crucial conference matchup against Ohio. Both teams aim to make their mark in the Mid-American Conference tournament standings, making this game a must-watch event.

Baseball at Notre Dame

On March 5 at 4:30 p.m., the baseball team heads to Notre Dame, Indiana, to take on Notre Dame. This early-season non-conference game is a big opportunity for the Eagles to prove their strength against a formidable opponent.

Women's Basketball at Akron

On March 5 at 6 p.m., the women's basketball team will head to Akron, Ohio, for a pivotal conference game. The Eagles will look to secure a significant victory on the road to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Women's Golf at Gator Invitational

From March 7-9, the women's golf team heads to Gainesville, Florida, for the Gator Invitational. This prestigious event will feature some of the top collegiate teams in the country, and EMU is ready to compete at a high level.

Baseball at Akron

On March 7 at 2 p.m., the baseball team travels to Akron, Ohio, for a conference showdown against Akron. The Eagles will look to continue their strong performance and start the series with a victory.

Men's Basketball at Kent State

The men's basketball team will face Kent State in Kent, Ohio, on March 7 at 7 p.m. With postseason spots on the line, this game is crucial for both teams as they look to finish the season strong.

Gymnastics at UC Davis

On March 7 at 7 p.m. PT, the gymnastics team heads to Davis, California, to meet against the University of California, Davis. The Eagles want to keep their momentum going with a strong performance in this exciting competition.

Baseball at Akron

The baseball team plays the second game of their series against Akron in Akron, Ohio, on March 8 at 1 p.m. The Eagles want to take control of the series with another strong performance.

Tennis vs UIC

On March 8 at 1 p.m., the tennis team hosts the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in Ypsilanti. This is an excellent opportunity for the Eagles to continue their home-court success and pick up a critical win.

Women's Basketball vs Bowling Green

On March 8 at 2 p.m., the women's basketball team hosts Bowling Green in Ypsilanti. As the regular season winds down, the Eagles will look to finish strong with a big victory.

Baseball at Akron

On March 9 at 1 p.m., the baseball team takes on Akron in another vital game in Akron, Ohio. The Eagles will aim to wrap up the series with a solid victory.

Gymnastics at Sacramento State

On March 9 at 2 p.m. PT, the gymnastics team travels to Sacramento, California, for a 2 p.m. meet against Sacramento State. It's another tough competition, and the Eagles are determined to bring their best performance.

Women's basketball erases halftime deficit, falls short to Miami in OT

Caleb Henderson
Sports Reporter

Following a second quarter that saw the Eastern Michigan women's basketball team only score three points in 10 minutes and enter halftime trailing by 23, things looked bleak for the Eagles up against the fifth-best team in the conference.

However, instead of peacefully accepting their 24th defeat of the season, the Eagles chose not to go down without a valiant fight.

Thanks to a 34-point explosion in the third quarter, during which the team hit 8 of 11 three-point attempts over the 10 minutes, Eastern Michigan gradually clawed its way back into the game. They tied it up early in the final frame and even took a four-point lead at a couple of points down the stretch.

With the game on the line and the score tied at 65 in the closing seconds of regulation, the Eagles forced a turnover on Miami's (OH) last possession and had the ball with three seconds left, a chance to win the game with a made shot.

Mackenzie Amalia's (Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania/Blackhawk/Canisius) three-point attempt fell short, though, and the game was pushed to overtime - an extra period dominated by the Redhawks to ultimately pull away down the stretch and win 82-72.

"Proud of our effort in the second



Courtesy of EMU Athletics

half and our execution in the second half," Eastern Michigan head coach Sahar Nusseibeh said regarding her team's comeback that almost was.

"We made a really big offensive adjustment" with Miami being as physical as they were defensively and our lack of toughness in the first half, we just decided not to fight it and kinda spread them out," she added.

Brooklyn Thrash (Wayne, Ohio/Elmwood/Canisius) led the team in

scoring with a career-high 16 points, including shooting 50% from beyond the arc (4/8). At the same time, Sisi Eleko (Montreal, Quebec/New Hope Academy/Canisius) added 14 points and 16 rebounds before fouling out towards the end of regulation.

Olivia Smith (Fort Wayne, Indiana/South Side) and Olivia Westphal (Bethel Park, Pa./Bethel Park/Duquesne) also both managed to put up double figures and helped energize the second-half comeback, Smith added

13 to the stat sheet while Westphal supplied 11 points.

With the win, Miami (OH) improved to 17-9 (9-6 MAC) and clinched its spot in the MAC Tournament, while Eastern Michigan fell to 2-24 (1-14 MAC).

The Eagles will return to action this Saturday at 2 p.m., traveling to face the Buffalo Bulls. The game will be streamed live on ESPN+.

'Zero Day' is insufferably shallow and self-important

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

In Netflix's latest political thriller limited series "Zero Day," the United States found itself under a brief cyber attack, resulting in death, chaos, and a threat that it would happen again. In desperation, the government enlisted the help of former president George Mullen, played by Robert De Niro, to track down the threat.

The show was created by television writer Eric Newman, journalist and ex-president of NBC News Noah Oppenheim, and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Michael S. Schmidt.

Highs

The acting was generally well done throughout "Zero Day." With a cast including De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Lizzy Caplan, and Angela Bassett. These actors did well infusing more personality than the script had. Not enough to save "Zero Day" from being boring, but at least no one actively brought it down.

Lows

George Mullen was a perfectly nice president. He was charismatic yet warm, mostly ethical, and extremely



boring and unbelievable. Perhaps this itself was a political statement, showing an idealized version of an American president. If so, it was a deeply shallow statement that made for a boring protagonist. The audience was told George was a beloved president, yet showed nothing of his policies or his stances besides some vague idea of unity.

"Zero Day" acted like it had something to say, yet said nothing. It danced around real world political

issues, flirting with ideas such as disorder, extremism, and how much power the government should have. Characters gave impassioned monologues about patriotism and corruption without saying anything at all. Every politician was so bland and one-note, it was impossible to even guess their beliefs. If one of the writers admitted the show was written by ChatGPT, it would be entirely believable.

Perhaps this was to give the show a

more universal appeal. But shouldn't a political thriller be, you know, political? Not to mention, it could have exchanged no stance for complex stances. How much power the government should have is a complex issue. How to react in a crisis is a complex issue. The show didn't have to solve real world problems or be blunt, but a skillful writer can analyze and present thought provoking ideas and leave them for the viewer to decide.

The shallowness of a puddle did not

stop "Zero Day" from acting as if it had the depth of the ocean. The show was insufferably self-absorbed, believing it was some groundbreaking, thought-provoking drama. Filmed and colored in a way that was tense and dark, using dreary cinematography and an uneasy score. The characters were constantly wound up, delivering their meaningless lines with dead seriousness. It lacked both the intrigue of a deep show and the fun of a shallow one. A political thriller that didn't care to be political or thrilling.

Verdict

Despite "Zero Day" being helmed by two prolific journalists, it had nothing at all to say. It was painful to watch something act so profound and important while being hollow. At the same time, it was just unpleasant to watch with its bland cinematography and characters.

Rating: 2 out of 10

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

Rebecca Yarros brings intense fantasy in sequel, 'Onyx Storm'

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

"Onyx Storm" by Rebecca Yarros is the third book in her "Empyrean" series. It was released at the end of January; fans were lined up outside doors waiting to purchase her book. It is full of thrilling, action-packed fantasy involving dragon riders Violet Sorrengail and Xaden Riorson.

This book is about Violet's adventure at Basgiath War College, where she enters her third year. The stakes continue to heighten with the danger of the venin, dark-magic wielders creating menaces for civilians. The narrative explores Violet's challenges, personal growth, and romantic relationship with Xaden. There are aspects of Navarre politics that generate tension between

the dragons and Basgai. Violet is determined to find a cure for Xaden being a Venin and finding Andarna's family of irid dragons.

Highs

The central high is Violet's personal growth as she matures into a brave dragon rider. In the last book of "Iron Flame," she lost her mother, Lilith Sorrengail. This loss has shown her a different perspective on life, and her determination to save her world grew more intense. In this book, she faces multiple obstacles, including finding a cure for Xaden. This is an intriguing aspect of the book because their love is unbreakable. Their relationship continues to be a highlight. Consider how Xaden will always protect Violet, even if it is from him. He struggles with controlling his dark magic due to being Venin.

The character development of Xaden is high; he continues to be the most potent rider while also becoming the Duke of Tryenddor. He struggles to accept the fact he is a Venin and could endanger the love of his life. He pushes through this horrible obstacle and controls himself, showing perseverance.

The commentary of the dragons Tairn and Andarna is high because it provides this humorous aspect in a serious situation. Andarna is this beautiful adolescent dragon that tends to disobey Tairn. She is hilarious and is a brave dragon who wants to prove to everyone her power and that she is not delicate. Tairn reminds the fans of a grumpy dad taking care of his daughter. He provides elder insight and comments; their banter is everything.

The world-building in "Onyx Storm" is written beautifully and is

easier to comprehend than in "Iron Flame." Yarros grows the complex world of Navarre, introducing new areas and diving more deeply into the legend of dragons and magic. This keeps the fans interested throughout the book and gives them plot twists. The plot twists were done exceptionally; they were intense and can sometimes be emotional.

Lows

There were minimal lows within the book. The main low was the pacing issue; it was slow at times, which can draw the reader away. There were many new characters throughout the book that can make readers feel overwhelmed trying to keep up.

Specific chapters could be confusing at times, but the development of Andarna could be explained more. She is an essential character in the book, and

her journey to find her family is intense. A particular character died during this adventure, which was unnecessary in a specific aspect. There is a chapter that creates a heartbreak for fans and can be intense regarding the dragons.

Verdict

"Onyx Storm" is worth the read for those continuing the Empyrean series. It is a thrilling, complex fantasy that keeps the love alive for fans cheering for Xaden and Violet's relationship.

Rating: 10 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

In 'Captain America: Brave New World,' Red Hulk comes alive

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

"Captain America: Brave New World," directed by Julius Onah, was recently released in theaters. The theaters sold out, and excited fans were ready for the new Captain America. This film features Anthony Mackie as Sam Wilson and Harrison Ford as Thaddeus Ross.

Sam Wilson takes Steve Rogers' position as the new Captain America. Sam is in an international incident with meeting President Thaddeus Ross. His mission is to discover the truth behind

the infamous global plot before the true villain, Samuel Sterns (Tim Blake Nelson), has the entire world turned red.

Highs

Ford's performance as President Ross was enticing and emotional. He shined through an otherwise dull plot or flat dialogue in many scenes. His tone was cunning, and his anger translated well. The CGI of Red Hulk was beautifully done; it gave this thrilling feeling. He was a reminder of the original Hulk, giving a sense of nostalgia.

Another film highlight was Tim Blake Nelson's performance of The

Leader. For those who aren't entirely caught up with Marvel's continuity, back in 2008, "The Incredible Hulk" hit theaters, starring Edward Norton as Bruce Banner and Tim Blake Nelson as Samuel Sterns, yes, the same character and actor in "Captain America: Brave New World."

At the end of Hulk in 2008, Sterns had a gamma radiation accident involving Banner's blood, which gave him super intellect. Tim Blake's calculated and dark performance shines through the occasional silly tone scattered throughout this film. For most of the movie, he lurks in the shadows as a mastermind-type character who single-handedly orchestrates

destruction without getting involved.

Lows

This may be due to the reshoots before the film's release, but many moments fell flat. For example, Sam Wilson's dialogue with Tim Blake Nelson's The Leader fell short and left much to be desired.

Another low of was pacing. The movie's flow felt choppy and led you to believe certain things were happening when, instead, it gets dragged into a whole other scene. This movie needed to be slightly longer and have some scenes switched around.

This movie takes you on a ride jam-packed with incredible action

sequences and okay dialogue. The strengths, however, couldn't make up for the poor dialogue and simple plot.

Verdict

"Captain America: Brave New World" was action-packed but lacked some elements. However, it is worth watching for Marvel fans who want to stay connected to the Marvel universe.

Rating: 6 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Happy

*Moonlight
FunkyL0af
Comics Artist*



Scoop says...



March!

*How to Draw: Cole
Rylee Curley
Design Chief*



*How to Draw: Lucy
Rylee Curley
Design Chief*



Ypsilanti Thrift Shop volunteers contribute to the community



Courtesy of Ypsilanti Thrift Shop

**Asia O'Quinn
Staff Reporter**

Nancy Good and Debie White volunteer at Ypsilanti Thrift Shop, a nonprofit organization at 14 S Washington Street. They put their own experiences in play to manage the shop, which they believe is a community favorite because of low prices, money flowing back into the community, and donations to people in need. Good and White both were avid thriffters before working at the Ypsilanti shop. They use those experiences to calculate prices, decide on where to share the proceeds, and schedule special deals.

Q: What is Ypsilanti Thrift Shop's mission?

Good: We discussed this at the last board meeting because we don't have a formal mission statement. It's something we're in the process of making. We aim to serve the Ypsilanti community with affordable clothing and household goods, with profits going to emergency needs, like social service agencies.

Q: Where do Ypsilanti Thrift Shop's profits go to?

White: We donate monthly to Meals on Wheels, Friends In Deed, and Hope Clinic.

Good: We aren't their entire budget, but we contribute each month to those social agencies.

Q: What requirements should people know before giving away their clothes at Ypsilanti Thrift Shop?

Good: We want something in sellable shape. If you wouldn't give it to your best friend, don't bring it. Unfortunately, a lot of the donations we get, we feel like it's people's trash. We don't look at people's clothes when they drop them off; we wait until after they leave. People can drop off their donations on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only. For more information regarding criteria, people can visit YpsiThriftShop.org and click on "Material Donations."

Q: If the clothing items people

bring in aren't suitable for the sales floor, what happens to them?

White: We don't throw them out. Instead, we donate to PACE and send the rest of our recycling to a company that donates internationally.

Good: They'll turn the clothes into scrap. That's one of the main advantages of donating to a thrift shop because it doesn't end up in landfill.

Q: Have you spotted any luxury brands while sorting through what people have donated?

White: We get some brand-name clothes and clothes that still have tags on them.

Good: We always hope to get some brand-name clothes because we love it when we get luxury stuff. If they're a premium brand or new, we price them higher than normal because most things here are \$3. We have a list of premium brands to remember how to price them. We're pretty reasonable with pricing compared to other thrift shops.

Q: Before things hit the sales floor, do volunteers get first dibs on items that people have donated?

White: Of course we get first dibs, if I'm being honest. We're unpaid, and if we find something we want, we will ask another team member to price it. We typically don't price things that we want to buy.

Q: Does the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop have any special deals or events coming up?

Good: For EMU students, we will offer 10% with their school ID being shown.

Q: How are the items priced?

White: Our basic items, like men's shirts and pants and women's slacks and tops, are \$3, but if they're the brand name, we'll mark them up. We keep a list of brand names so the price remains consistent. For example, if a clothing item is brand new and has an \$80 tag, we'll mark them up. Our mission is to serve the community, so we're here to make a little bit of money, too. We also take vouchers from clinics. The basic clothing piece is going to be \$3 and up.

Q: How long have you volunteered at the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop and what made you volunteer?

White: We started around the same time that I retired in 2014. I didn't even know Ypsilanti had a thrift shop before I came here. I went to Ann Arbor first trying to volunteer, and they wanted someone there to sponsor me. I didn't know anyone there, so I talked to one of my friends and she told me I should come to the Ypsi Thrift Shop and I said, "Where's that?" I never realized it was here, because it's hidden.

Good: It's been about 10 years because I retired in 2014, and we started within a year. Deb's been a thrifter and still is. I had never thrifited before I started volunteering here. I found out about Ypsilanti Thrift Shop at a volunteer fair.

Q: What job did you have before volunteering at Ypsilanti Thrift Shop?

White: Years ago, I worked at a consignment shop in Ann Arbor called The Tree. I got paid to work there. At that time, I worked four days a week and worked at the consignment shop on my off days, so I loved it. People would bring in their stuff, and we'd go through it, but it was slightly different because it was a consignment shop, similar to Plato's Closet.

Good: Before I retired, I worked as a banker.

Q: What makes Ypsilanti Thrift Shop different than other thrift stores?

White: Goodwill and ValueWorld pay their people, but we don't get paid because we volunteer. They have shopping carts, but we have handheld baskets. We're not perfect, but we'll put out things with a rip or spot. I feel like when I shop at bigger thrift stores, it's not the same quality, but that's just my opinion. I still shop there.

Q: What's the most shocking thing you have seen donated here?

White: It was a big, voluminous net. I'm sure it was a costume of some sort, it's hard to describe because I thought it was a hoop skirt.

Good: We get a lot of racy lingerie.

There have been some disgusting things we get, like dirty underwear.

Q: Does the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop sell underwear?

White: We sell underwear, but it has to be perfect. Most of what we sell is new and we hope that people who purchase here wash it at home.

Q: What items sell the most in the store?

Good: I think women's clothing sells the most. We could sell a lot more baby clothes if we got them, but we don't get many donations of baby clothes. Lots of people come in to look at the jewelry. When we get nice jewelry, it normally gets sold somewhere else because people aren't going to want to pay what it's worth at a thrift shop.

White: We have several regulars who come back weekly or two to three times a week because we have turnover and have new stuff all the time. Some guys come in, too.

Q: How do you decide what type of clothing items go on the floor?

Good: We put our stuff out seasonally, so right now you're not going to find summer clothes. At the end of the season is when we get ready for the changeover. We start selling everything at half the price for a week or two. Then we begin the bag sale, for \$5 or \$4 each. We do this to empty the store and fill it with items appropriate for the approaching season.

Q: What would you say to convince someone to come to the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop?

White: We have the best prices in town, are a nonprofit organization, we're all volunteers, and we donate to social services to help people in need.

Good: All of the money is going back into the community, and we pay our bills, which is \$500 a month. Other than that, it goes right back into the community.

Q: If you find money inside the pockets of clothing, do you keep it or where does it go?

Good: We put in our donation. When people make a purchase, lots of

them say to keep the change. We have a jar filled with change and we'll use that if customers come up a little short in what they owe.

Q: Is Ypsilanti Thrift Shop the only thrift shop in Ypsi that operates in a volunteer setting?

White: Ann Arbor Thrift Shop is also nonprofit and volunteer-centered to help those in need in their community.

Good: Depot Town Thrift isn't a nonprofit, but they do use volunteers. They are very generous because they accept vouchers like us and give stuff away.

Q: Since you don't get paid to work here, why do you stay and keep volunteering?

Good: It's for a good cause. Deb and I's relationship plays a big part in it, too. People at Eastern's campus may not know of us, but we are incredibly well-regarded among the streets of Ypsilanti. They tried to shoplift, but people love us. Our front window broke a couple of years ago while it was being caulked. I remember sitting outside, and someone came by and said, "We're going to find out who did this because they can't mess with our thrift shop." I told them that we did it ourselves, but it was sweet that they cared. We marched in the Fourth of July parade and people would see us and go, "Oh, I love the thrift shop." So it's rewarding.

White: When I retired, I didn't do much for the first year besides going to Toledo to see my mother every week. I knew I wanted to do something but not work again, so the thrift shop is a way to give back to the community.

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday and Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Volunteers receive training and are asked to commit to working at least three and half hours a month. Anyone wanting to join the team should fill out the volunteer application on the shop's website.